

Serial No. 09/787,698

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph starting on page 5, line 5 with the following paragraph:

The following optimization function, which is also referred to as an expanded Q-function  $Q^*(x_i, a_i)$ , is used in the ~~Hager-Heger~~ method: